



PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$2.3 Million in Skills Capital Grants to Support High Schools

Administration has awarded more than \$38 Million to high schools and colleges in the Commonwealth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Governor Charlie Baker | Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

James Peyser, Education Secretary

Jay Ash, HED Secretary

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Workforce Skills Cabinet

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LYNN — The Baker-Polito Administration today awarded \$2.3 million in Skills Capital Grants to seven high schools that will use the funds to purchase new industry-standard equipment, in a variety of fields, so students are better prepared for college and careers.

The goal of the Skills Capital Grants is to help high schools, colleges and other educational institutions invest in the most up-to-date training equipment to give their students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or particular area of study. The Skills Capital Grants cover a broad array of fields, from construction and engineering to healthcare and hospitality.

With today's announcement, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$38.2 million to 124 different programs.

"Skills Capital Grants make an enormous difference in the education and training students receive at schools across the Commonwealth," **Governor Charlie Baker said**. "These grants will have a lasting impact by ensuring more residents are able to move into rewarding careers and more companies have the skilled employees they need to grow."

"Skills Capital Grants impact students' education and influence programs to meet the needs of employers across the Commonwealth seeking skilled employees," **Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said**. "We are encouraged every time we visit a school that was awarded one of these grants and hear students talk about the difference the new equipment makes in their educational experience."

The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as align curriculum and credentials with industry demand, in order to maximize hiring opportunities in each region of the state. The Economic Development legislation, proposed by the Administration and passed by the Legislature, authorized \$45 million in funding to award over three years.

"The number of educational institutions that compete for Skills Capital Grants with well-thought out business partnerships is impressive," **Education Secretary Jim Peyser said**. "Schools that receive these grants are ensuring their students are well-prepared for college and careers, making a difference in their students' future successes."

"Massachusetts is a national leader in life sciences, healthcare, technology, and manufacturing sectors," **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash**. "These grants allow us to build a strong pipeline of talented workers throughout the Commonwealth to support these key industries. A skilled workforce is essential to making Massachusetts increasingly competitive for the jobs of today, and of tomorrow."

"The Skills Capital grant program is helping to fill current and future talent gaps in the workforce that are vital to the Commonwealth's economic outlook," **Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta said**. "By continuing to invest in our workforce, we will ensure that the citizens of Massachusetts have the skills necessary to remain the best trained and educated in the nation."

Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito created the Workforce Skills Cabinet in 2015, bringing together the Secretariats of Education, Labor and Workforce Development and Housing and Economic Development in order to align education, economic development and workforce policies, and to strategize around how to meet employers' demand for skilled workers in each region of the state.

The following high schools received Skills Capital Grants today:

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School - \$165,415: The school will purchase a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Door Production I Arch Machine for the cabinet making program. Students will develop advanced production skills used by cabinetmakers, furniture makers, bench carpenters, machine operators, and CNC programmers by creating real world capstone projects for community partners. Additionally, the equipment will be used in the evening for adults who are interested in cabinet making careers or upgrading existing skills.

Belchertown High School - \$100,000: The high school will invest in STEM educational technology focused on Information Technology and Engineering, including Cloud-based IT programming/coding language software, 3D printers, and robotics equipment. Students will receive hands-on applied learning on equipment aligned to standards in college and workplace environments.

Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical School - \$299,866: The school is launching a new engineering program that will expose students to opportunities in electrical, electronics, structural and civil engineering careers. The high school is working with local community colleges and universities to provide students with college to career pathways in engineering. With the award, the school will invest in training system modules and kits that will be used during the day with students, and in the evening with adult learners. The school is partnering with local career centers, regional workforce boards, and industry partners to provide these new adult programs to support unemployed and underemployed adults.

Lynn Vocational Institute - \$395,685: The school will launch a new HVAC program, to support the North Shore region's construction trade industry. Students will gain hands-on experience using industry standard HVAC training equipment, including mounted split condensing units, heating units, simulated heating and AC for basement and attic areas, as well as gas-fired make up air units (MUA).

Northeast Metropolitan - \$491,387: The school will create a new Industrial Automation program to support the region's growing manufacturing industry. The school will purchase industrial robots, PLC workstations, 3D printers, Digital Oscilloscopes, function generators, multi-mechatronics kits, microcontrollers, and hydraulic trainers.

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School - \$420,000: The school will create a new secondary dental assisting vocational program, and will offer a night program to community college students and adults already employed in the dental industry. The school will purchase dental chairs, analog and digital X-ray equipment, steri centers, autoclaves, wet model trimmers, polishing and grinding equipment, and a denture processing center.

Worcester Technical High School - \$465,616: The school will invest in new industry standard equipment for students in the IT, Graphic Design and Marketing program. With the new equipment, students will be

able to earn industry credentials, such as PrintEd GAERF/Skills USA Graphic Design, screen printing and Adobe Certified Associate (ACA).

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